

Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board

Draft Negative Declaration

- 1. Project title:** Waste Discharge Requirements for SK Foods, Tomato Processing Facility
- 2. Lead agency name and address:** Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board
1685 E Street
Fresno, CA 93706
- 3. Contact person and phone number:** Jeff Pyle, Engineering Geologist
559-445-5145
- 4. Project location:** Approximately 2,600 acres bounded to the west by 25th Avenue, to the northwest by Avenal Cutoff Road, to the north by Kent Avenue, to the east by the Empire Westside Main Canal, and to the south by Laurel Avenue. The site incorporates Sections 2, 3, 10, and 11, Township 20S, Range 19E, Mount Diablo Baseline and Meridian. A full list of parcel numbers is included in the Initial Study as Appendix C.
- 5. Project's sponsor's name and address:** SK Foods
P.O. Box 160
1175 19th Ave.
Lemoore, CA 93245
- 6. General plan designation:** Not applicable
- 7. Zoning:** Not applicable
- 8. Description of project:** Waste Discharge Requirements for the use of food processing wastewater for crop irrigation on property that is currently cultivated and zoned for Exclusive Agriculture (AX) and General Agriculture (AG-40).
- 9. Surrounding land uses and settings:** Project property is surrounded by agricultural lands. Open land farming surrounds the area.
- 10. Other public agencies whose approval is required:** None

ENVIRONMENTAL FACTORS POTENTIALLY AFFECTED:

The environmental factors checked below would potentially be affected by this project, involving at least one impact that is a "Potentially Significant Impact" as indicated by the checklist included in the attached Initial Study.

- | | | |
|--|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aesthetics | <input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural Resources | <input type="checkbox"/> Air Quality |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Biological Resources | <input type="checkbox"/> Cultural Resources | <input type="checkbox"/> Geology/Soils |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Hazards and Hazardous Materials | <input type="checkbox"/> Hydrology/Water Quality | <input type="checkbox"/> Land Use/Planning |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Mineral Resources | <input type="checkbox"/> Noise | <input type="checkbox"/> Population/Housing |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Public Services | <input type="checkbox"/> Recreation | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation/Traffic |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Utilities/ Service Systems | <input type="checkbox"/> Mandatory Findings of Significance | |

FINDINGS

Based on the findings of the Initial Study, the project would not:

- Degrade the quality of the environment, substantially reduce the habitat of a fish or wildlife population to drop below self-sustaining levels, threaten to eliminate a plant or animal community, reduce the number or restrict the range of a rare or endangered plant or animal or eliminate important examples of California history or prehistory.
- Achieve short-term, to the disadvantage of long-term, environmental goals.
- Have impacts that are individually limited, but cumulatively considerable.
- Have environmental effects which will cause substantial adverse effects on human beings, either directly or indirectly.

DETERMINATION

The Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board has reviewed the proposed project and has determined that the project, based on the Initial Study attached hereto, will not have a significant effect on the environment. An environmental impact report is not required pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act of 1970 (CEQA). This environmental review process and negative declaration is done in accordance with CEQA (PRC 21000 et seq.) and the CEQA Guidelines (14 CCR 15000 et. seq.).

On the basis of this initial evaluation:

☒ I find that the proposed project COULD NOT have a significant effect on the environment, and a NEGATIVE DECLARATION will be prepared.

☐ I find that although the proposed project could have a significant effect on the environment, there will not be a significant effect in this case because revisions to the project have been made by or agreed to by the project proponent. A MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION will be prepared.

☐ I find that the proposed project MAY have a significant effect on the environment, and an ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT is required.

☐ I find that the proposed project MAY have an impact on the environment that is “potentially significant” or “potentially significant unless mitigated” but at least one effect (1) has been adequately analyzed in an earlier document pursuant to applicable legal standards and (2) has been addressed by mitigation measures based on the earlier analysis, as described on attached sheets. An ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT is required, but it must analyze only the effects that remain to be addressed.

☐ I find that although the proposed project could have a significant effect on the environment, because all potentially significant effects (a) have been analyzed adequately in an earlier ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT or NEGATIVE DECLARATION pursuant to applicable standards, and (b) have been avoided or mitigated pursuant to that earlier ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT or NEGATIVE DECLARATION, including revisions or mitigation measures that are imposed upon the project, nothing further is required.

_____ Signature	_____ 16 July 2007 Date
_____ Loren J. Harlow Printed Name	_____ Assistant Executive Officer Title